Nemaha County Nebraska Spill

Nemaha, NE - EPA Region VII

Site Contact:
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Nemaha, NE 68414
www.epaosc.org/nemahacountynebraskaspill
Latitude: 40.3130000
Longitude: -95.7160000

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At approximately 1300 hours on December 10, 2011, the National Response Center reported a spill from two collocated Magellan Midstream Partners pipelines in rural Nemaha County, Nebraska. The initial report indicated that the pipelines, one
8-inches and one 12-inches in diameter, had lost a combined 6,000 barrels of gasoline and diesel. The estimates were based on pressure loss and distance to shut-off valves.

On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) Todd Campbell, who reported from the site at 1805 hours, indicated that a farmer had been clearing a hedge row with tree removal equipment had created the breaks in the lines. The material had flowed onto an agricultural field and was pooled behind terraces. Magellan had also created an underflow dam to retain more of the product and had boom and other equipment at their disposal. Darkness had precluded capturing any images of the scene.

OSC Campbell provided the following observations at 0900 hours on December 11, 2011:
• Magellan had many responders on-site from at least three companies (HazMat Response Inc., ESI and Seneca Environmental). Equipment on-site included 11 vac trucks, 2 track hoes and a bulldozer.
• Two underflow dams and a 15-foot-deep interceptor trench had been developed. Product had reached and impacted approximately ¼ mile of Jarvis Creek, which is a tributary to the Little Nemaha River. Jarvis Creek flows approximately two miles from the impacted area to the Little Nemaha River, which in turn flows approximately 1.5 miles to the Missouri River. It did not appear that product had reached the Little Nemaha River.
• The Center for Toxicology and Environmental Health (CTEH) is providing air monitoring with a number of teams. They have established a fixed air monitoring station at the nearest residence (approximately ¾ mile from the break). Mobile air monitoring was also being conducted by driving around the impacted area.
• Magellan is beginning to work with the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality (NDEQ) on sampling and treatment options.

OSC Randy Schademann was on-site on Monday December 12, 2011, and reported the following:
• Magellan crews had patched the two lines and initiated start-up procedures.
• The only recoverable product was a thin sheen on Jarvis Creek. That material was being recovered behind two lower -water dams and several sorbent boom locations. A sphagnum peat moss-based sorbent was effectively being used to assist recovery at several locations.
• Magellan crews were preparing for incoming rains. The EPA consultation with National Weather Service in Omaha provided a spot forecast that included up to 1.5 inches of rain, with imbedded thunderstorms that could significantly increase that total. Rain is to begin late morning on Tuesday with the heaviest precipitation occurring Tuesday night and continuing through Wednesday. A larger underflow dam, with two segments of 3-foot corrugated pipe, was being constructed on Jarvis Creek to accommodate storm water flows.
• An environmental contractor, hired by Magellan, was on-site to begin assessing soil and groundwater issues.
• OSC Schademann and NDEQ's Scott McIntyre provided information to KLKN TV channel 8 from Lincoln, Nebraska.

Schademann conducted another reconnaissance on December 19 and noted the following:
• Magellan's contractors were developing an interceptor trench immediately outside the riparian area where the grass way enters the creek.
• Several pumps were being utilized to provide air sparging to reduce VOCs in the creek.
• A number of areas were developed with sorbent boom and peat moss to capture a small sheen.
• Magellan allowed me to review a data sheet that indicated current levels within the creek were well below Nebraska surface water standards. A sample from a down gradient ground water well was non detect. Both surface and ground water samples had analysis for DRO, ORO, GRO, BTEX, and TPH.

For additional information, visit the **Pollution/Situation Report** (Pol/Sitreps) section.

Bulletins

None for this site.

Images

List All...

Documents

KMZ file from December 19th tr...
KMZ file that provides photos ...

List All...

Pol/SitReps

POLREP - 1

List All...

Contacts

None for this site.

Links

None for this site.